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ORIGINAL MOTION PICTURE SOUNDTRACK

MEET ME IN ST. LOUIS

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Meet Me in St. Louis enjoys continued renown as "an authentic American classic, timeless in its enchantment and poignancy" (*The Los Angeles Times*). It *is* an American classic...and so much more. With a heartwarming storyline, an incredible cast, a cornucopia of spectacular melodies and the inspired direction of Vincente Minnelli, *Meet Me in St. Louis* remains one of the grandest productions ever created by Hollywood's preeminent musical dream factory – Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer.

When M-G-M's inimitable producer Arthur Freed purchased the screen rights to Sally Benson's autobiographical *Kensington Stories* in March, 1942, he believed the nostalgic reminiscences to be ideal material for a new Judy Garland musical. And, as manifested by the film's instant success and longlasting popularity, he could not have been more right!

Preliminary work on the project began in November, 1943 when Irving Brecher and Fred F. Finklehoffe's marvelous screenplay was assigned to director Vincente Minnelli. *Meet Me in St. Louis* marked Minnelli's first experience behind a Technicolor® camera, and he used the Technicolor process to help establish his own unique and beguiling style.

The film was also ideally cast. In the lead role, Judy Garland was magnificent: "Never before had

Garland's protean talents as an actress as well as a singer had such a chance to shine so radiantly" (*The Los Angeles Times*). In addition to Judy, the cast included such veteran performers as Mary Astor (who had also played Garland's mother in the earlier *Listen, Darling*), Leon Ames, Marjorie Main and Harry Davenport, as well as such talented newcomers as Freed's protege Lucille Bremer, Tom Drake (in a role initially planned for Van Johnson or Robert Walker), June Lockhart and Margaret O'Brien.

Completed in early April, 1944, *Meet Me in St. Louis* was a victory for all involved. A big budget film (the studio had spent over two hundred thousand dollars building the "St. Louis Street" set alone!), it raked in huge profits. For many years, it was one of M-G-M's largest grossing motion pictures. The film also marked Minnelli's emergence as Metro's preeminent musical director, and it immeasurably strengthened the stature and sway of the "Freed Unit." (Freed gleefully took part in the film's production and it's actually his voice that was dubbed for that of Leon

Ames in the charming **"You And I."**) Miss O'Brien received a special Oscar®* for her performance, and the film garnered nominations in four additional Academy Award® categories in 1944: Screenplay, Color Cinematography, Musical Scoring and Song (**"The Trolley Song"**). Finally, *Meet Me in St. Louis* put Judy Garland – for the third time – into the annual list of Top Ten box office stars.

Yet, it is impossible to speak of the phenomenal success of this wonderful film – indeed it is hard to imagine the film at all – without praising the outstanding musical contributions of the young songwriting team, Martin & Blane.

Hugh Martin and Ralph Blane had hit the big time a few years earlier when their *Best Foot Forward* took Broadway by storm. When M-G-M later purchased the screen rights to that production, the young men became a part of the famous "Freed Unit" and were soon given the opportunity to compose the score for *Meet Me in St. Louis*. The team delivered a collection of songs perfectly suited to the turn-of-the-century setting of the film, yet with a sound that remained distinctly contemporary.

This compact disc is the first *Meet Me in St. Louis* soundtrack album ever released. Judy Garland recorded some of the film's songs for Decca Records – her Decca versions of **"The Trolley Song"** and **"Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas"** made the best-seller charts – but those recordings lacked the luster and passion of the M-G-M soundtrack performances. The studio had yet to start its own record company (M-G-M Records issued its first soundtrack album, *Till the Clouds Roll By*, in 1946), and the soundtrack performances went unreleased until many years later, when a few of the songs were included on Garland compilation albums.

This soundtrack album not only includes all the film's songs and most of the lovely underscoring as orchestrated by M-G-M's incomparable Conrad Salinger, but it also presents these extraordinary recordings in true Stereophonic Sound. Although Stereophonic technology as we know it today was not developed until many years later, M-G-M had been recording its soundtracks in an innovative fashion since the 1930s: using several microphones, each set to a different angle or "stem," studio recording engineers produced incredibly balanced mono tracks. With the aid of modern technology, we have remixed and edited these "stems" to create this Stereophonic version of the film's magnificent melodies.

This album also includes a lovely song by Rodgers and Hammerstein that, although intended

for inclusion in *Meet Me in St. Louis*, was deleted before the film's theatrical release. The song, **"Boys and Girls Like You and Me"** (recorded for the film by Judy Garland) was originally written for the 1943 Broadway production of *Oklahoma!*, but was removed from that show during its out-of-town tryout period. It was later purchased by Freed for *Meet Me in St. Louis*. Originally intended for a scene in which Esther (Judy Garland) and her beau (Tom Drake) visit the construction site of the World's Fair, the song was thought to slow the film down and was ultimately removed. Freed later attempted to include it in *Take Me Out to the Ball Game* (sung by Frank Sinatra to Betty Garrett), but it was subsequently deleted from that film as well. The song was eventually transformed into a waltz and featured as dance music in Rodgers and Hammerstein's television production of *Cinderella*. The *Meet Me in St. Louis* version appears here in its entirety.

Meet Me in St. Louis is an inspiring film about family, romance, youth, beauty, strength and triumph – all set "to a wonderful Hugh Martin - Ralph Blane score" (*Video Review's Best on Home Video*). Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer is proud to present this first-ever soundtrack album. We hope that these timeless melodies will bring you hours of enjoyment for years to come.

* Outstanding Child Actress of 1944

1. *Main Title* 3:02
Music by Conrad Salinger and Kerry Mills;
Lyrics by Andrew B. Sterling
©1944, renewed (EMI-Feist Catalog, Inc. /ASCAP)
Vocals by the M-G-M Studio Chorus
Recorded 5/25/44 in Culver City, CA

2. *"Meet Me in St. Louis, Louis"* 1:24
Music by Kerry Mills;
Lyrics by Andrew B. Sterling (1904)
(Worldwide public domain)
Vocals by Joan Carroll, Harry Davenport,
Judy Garland and the M-G-M Studio Chorus
Recorded 12/11/43, in Culver City, CA

3. *"The Boy Next Door"* 3:28
Music and Lyrics by Hugh Martin and Ralph Blane
©1944, renewed (EMI-Feist Catalog, Inc. /ASCAP)
Vocals by Judy Garland
Recorded 12/4/43 in Culver City, CA

4. *"Meet Me in St. Louis, Louis"* 1:56
Music by Kerry Mills;
Lyrics by Andrew B. Sterling (1904)
(Worldwide public domain)
Vocals by Judy Garland and Lucille Bremer
Recorded 12/3/43 in Culver City, CA

5. *"Getting Ready for the Party"* (Instrumental) 1:36
Music by Conrad Salinger, Hugh Martin
and Ralph Blane
©1944, renewed (EMI-Feist Catalog, Inc. /ASCAP)
Recorded 5/26/44 in Culver City, CA

6. *"Skip to my Lou"* 2:25
Original Music, Lyrics and Arrangement
by Hugh Martin and Ralph Blane
Traditional (Worldwide public domain)
©1944, renewed (EMI-Feist Catalog, Inc. /ASCAP)
Vocals by Judy Garland, Lucille Bremer and Ensemble
Recorded 12/3/43 in Culver City, CA

7. *"Under the Bamboo Tree"* 1:37
Music and Lyrics by Bob Cole (1902)
(Worldwide public domain)
Vocals by Judy Garland and Margaret O'Brien
Recorded 12/17/43 in Culver City, CA

8. *"Saying Goodnight"* (Instrumental) 3:31
Music by Roger Edens, Hugh Martin and Ralph Blane
©1944, renewed (EMI-Feist Catalog, Inc. /ASCAP)
Recorded 5/26/44 in Culver City, CA

9. *"Over the Bannister"* 1:26
Music and Lyrics by Conrad Salinger and Roger Edens
©1944, renewed (EMI-Feist Catalog, Inc. /ASCAP)
Vocals by Judy Garland and Tom Drake
Recorded 5/26/44 in Culver City, CA

10. *"The Trolley Song"* 4:04
Music and Lyrics by Hugh Martin and Ralph Blane
©1944, renewed (EMI-Feist Catalog, Inc. /ASCAP)
Vocals by Judy Garland and the
M-G-M Studio Chorus
Recorded 12/2/43 in Culver City, CA

11. *"Boys and Girls Like You and Me"* (Outtake) 2:16
Music by Richard Rodgers;
Lyrics by Oscar Hammerstein II
©1943, renewed (Williamson Music, Inc. /ASCAP)
Vocals by Judy Garland
Recorded 11/3/43 in Culver City, CA

12. *"All Hallow's Eve"* (Instrumental) 4:19
Music by Roger Edens and Conrad Salinger
©1944, renewed (EMI-Feist Catalog, Inc. /ASCAP)
Recorded 5/25/44 in Culver City, CA

13. *"The Most Horrible One"* (Instrumental) 4:25
Music by Conrad Salinger
©1944, renewed (EMI-Feist Catalog, Inc. /ASCAP)
Recorded 5/25/44 in Culver City, CA

14. *"You and I"* 2:40
Music by Nacio Herb Brown; Lyrics by Arthur Freed
©1944, renewed (EMI-Feist Catalog, Inc. /ASCAP)
Vocals by Arthur Freed and Denny Markas
Recorded 11/3/43 in Culver City, CA

15. *"Winter in St. Louis"* (Instrumental) :44
Music by Roger Edens and Calvin Jackson
©1944, renewed (EMI-Feist Catalog, Inc. /ASCAP)
Recorded 5/27/44 in Culver City, CA

16. *"I Hate Basketball"* (Instrumental) 3:24
Music by Roger Edens and Calvin Jackson
©1944, renewed (EMI-Feist Catalog, Inc. /ASCAP)
Recorded 5/25/44 in Culver City, CA

17. *"Under the Anheuser Bush"* (Instrumental) 1:40
Music by Harry von Tilzer
(U.S. public domain)
Foreign ©1903, renewed
(PolyGram International Publishing, Inc. /ASCAP)
Recorded 1/24/44 in Culver City, CA

18. *"Esther Accepts"* (Instrumental) 3:51
Music by Conrad Salinger, Hugh Martin
and Ralph Blane
©1944, renewed (EMI-Feist Catalog, Inc. /ASCAP)
Recorded 5/27/44 in Culver City, CA

19. *"Tootie's Music Box"* (Instrumental) 1:46
Music by Conrad Salinger
©1944, renewed (EMI-Feist Catalog, Inc. /ASCAP)
Recorded on 5/26/44 in Culver City, CA

20. *"Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas"* 2:37
Music and Lyrics by Hugh Martin and Ralph Blane
©1944, renewed (EMI-Feist Catalog, Inc. /ASCAP)
Vocals by Judy Garland
Recorded 12/4/43 in Culver City, CA

21. *"Tootie's Grief"* (Instrumental) 1:57
Music by Conrad Salinger
©1944, renewed (EMI-Feist Catalog, Inc. /ASCAP)
Recorded on 5/26/44 in Culver City, CA

22. *Finale* (Instrumental) 3:32
Music by Lennie Hayton and Kerry Mills
©1944, renewed (EMI-Feist Catalog, Inc. /ASCAP)
Recorded 5/26/44 in Culver City, CA

All selections orchestrated by Conrad Salinger; M-G-M Studio Orchestra conducted by Georgie Stoll

PRODUCTION CREDITS

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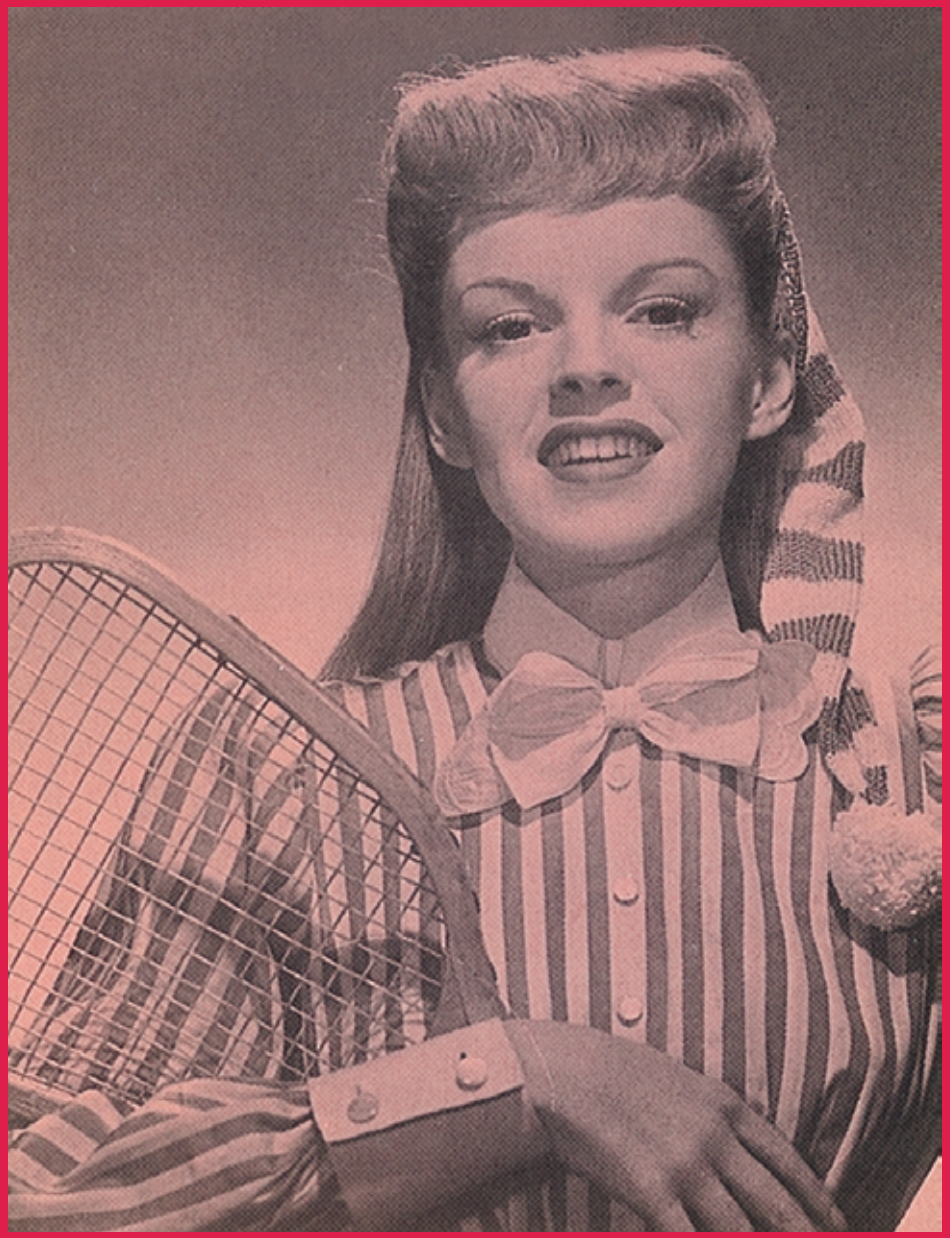

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2. *"Meet Me in St. Louis, Louis"*
   (Joan Carroll, Harry Davenport, Judy Garland and the M-G-M Studio Chorus)
3. *"The Boy Next Door"*
   (Judy Garland)
4. *"Meet Me in St. Louis, Louis"*
   (Judy Garland and Lucille Bremer)
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   (Instrumental)
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   (Judy Garland and Margaret O'Brien)
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   (Instrumental)
9. *"Over the Bannister"*
   (Judy Garland and Tom Drake)
10. *"The Trolley Song"*
    (Judy Garland and the M-G-M Studio Chorus)
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    (Instrumental)
18. *"Esther Accepts"*
    (Instrumental)
19. *"Tootie's Music Box"*
    (Instrumental)
20. *"Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas"*
    (Judy Garland)
21. *"Tootie's Grief"*
    (Instrumental)
22. *Finale*
    (Instrumental)

"MEET ME IN ST. LOUIS" STARRING JUDY GARLAND
WITH MARGARET O'BRIEN • TOM DRAKE • MARJORIE MAIN • MARY ASTOR • LUCILLE BREMER
PHOTOGRAPHED IN TECHNICOLOR® SCREENPLAY BY IRVING BRECHER AND FRED F. FINKLEHOFFE
BASED ON THE BOOK BY SALLY BENSON DIRECTED BY VINCENTE MINNELLI
PRODUCED BY ARTHUR FREED A METRO-GOLDWYN-MAYER PICTURE

STEREO*

WATERTOWER MUSIC

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